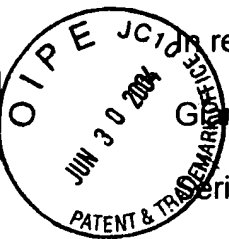


1FIA
1651

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Re Application of:

Gemmaaria SITAR

Examiner: Vera Afremova

Serial No.: 09/937,137

Art Unit: 1651

Filed: September 21, 2001

Atty. Dkt.: 3026-101 (New)

For: A METHOD FOR THE SEPARATION OF FETAL CELLS FROM THE
MATERNAL PERIPHERAL BLOOD

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of December 30, 2003, applicant submits the following amendment and response.

Applicant petitions for a 3 months extension of time to file a response to the outstanding Office Action, extending the time to respond from March 30, 2004 to June 30, 2004. A check for \$527.00 dollars to cover the fee for a three months extension (\$475.00, small entity) and one independent claim in excess of 3 (\$43.00) and dependent claims in excess of 20 (\$9.00) is submitted herewith. However, the Office is authorized to charge any deficiency in this fee to representative's deposit account no. 50-3135.

Amendments to the specification start on page 2.

Amendments to the claims start on page 4.

The remarks begin on page 10.

07/02/2004 MBERHE 00000094 09937137

01 FC:2202 9.00 OP
02 FC:2201 43.00 OP
03 FC:2253 475.00 OP

Serial No.: 09/937,137